

1. A speech-enabled internet website operating on a server computing system and comprising:
 - a receiving routine executing on the server computing system for receiving speech data associated with a user speech-based query, said speech data being characterized by a data content that is substantially inadequate by itself for permitting recognition of words articulated in said speech query; and
 - a speech recognition routine executing on the server computing system for completing recognition of said speech query using said speech data and said data content to generate a recognized speech query; and
 - a web page having a list of items, at least some of said list of items being selectable by a user based on said recognized speech query.
2. The website of claim 1, wherein said web page displays an additional list of one or more items based on said recognized speech query.
3. The website of claim 1, wherein said website is adapted so that the user can navigate and locate information of interest using said speech query.
4. The website of claim 1, wherein said list of items include products and/or services offered by said website.
5. The website of claim 1, wherein said web page is implemented in HTML or as a Java applet.
6. The website of claim 1, wherein said website is further adapted to respond to a speech query concerning said list of items by returning a text or speech articulated response.
7. The website of claim 1, wherein said website is further adapted to interact on a real-time basis in response to one or more continuous speech queries.

8. The website of claim 1, wherein said speech recognition routine can complete recognition of said speech query with less latency than would that resulting if said additional data content were generated by a client platform used by the user.
9. The website of claim 1, wherein said data content constitutes a minimum amount of information that can be used by said speech recognition engine to complete accurate recognition of words and sentences in said speech query.
10. The website of claim 1, wherein signal processing functions required to generate said recognized speech query can be allocated between a client platform and the server computing system as needed based on computing resources available to said client and server computing systems respectively.
11. The website of claim 1, wherein the website also controls an interactive character agent presented to the user for assisting in handling said speech query.
12. The website of claim 1, wherein said list of items correspond to topics associated with an interactive lesson tutorial.

13. A speech-enabled internet website operating on a server computing system and comprising:

a receiving routine executing on the server computing system for receiving speech data associated with a user speech-based query, said speech data being characterized by a first data content that is substantially inadequate by itself for permitting recognition of words articulated in said speech query; and

a speech recognition routine executing on the server computing system for completing recognition of said speech query using said speech data and said first data content to generate a recognized speech query; and

a web page having a search engine for locating user selected information of interest, said search engine using a text query that is derived from said recognized speech query.

14. The website of claim 13, wherein said speech query is processed by more than one server computing system, so that multiple search engines are used for locating said information of interest.

15. The website of claim 13, wherein said web page includes a list of one or more items associated with assisting a user to diagnose a product or service problem, and which one or more items are also selectable by a user speech-based query.

16. The website of claim 13, wherein said website provides and controls an agent for assisting a user to interact with said website.

17. The website of claim 13, wherein said list of items correspond to topics associated with an interactive lesson tutorial.

18. A system for enabling a user web browser program to interact with a website using speech utterances, the system comprising:

a receiving routine for receiving speech data associated with a speech utterance generated at a client platform, said speech data being characterized by a limited speech data content to reduce processing and transmission latencies; and

a speech recognition routine executing on a server computing system for completing recognition of said speech utterance using said limited speech data content to generate a recognized speech query; and

a web page routine for presenting one or more web pages to the user web browser program, wherein data content for said one or more web pages perceived by the user is controlled by said recognized speech query.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said recognized speech query can include one of a number of predefined sentences recognizable by said system, and said speech query is recognized by identifying a candidate set of potential sentences from a number of predefined sentences, and then comparing each entry in the candidate set of potential sentences to said speech query to determine a matching recognized sentence.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein said speech utterance is processed by a natural language engine.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein said speech utterance is compared against said candidate set of potential sentences by examining noun phrases.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein said candidate set of potential sentences are determined in part by a context dictionary loaded by said sentence recognition circuit in response to an operating environment presented by said system to a user.

23. The system of claim 19, wherein environment variables experienced by the user within the web browser program are used for recognizing said speech query.

24. The website of claim 18, wherein said list of items correspond to topics associated with an interactive lesson tutorial.

25. A method of interacting with a web-connected server using a client browser program, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving speech data associated with a speech utterance articulated by a user of the client platform, said speech data being characterized by a limited speech data content to reduce processing and transmission latencies; and
- (b) completing recognition of said speech utterance using said limited speech data content to generate a recognized speech query at the web-connected server; and
- (c) presenting one or more web pages to the user web browser program, such that data content for said one or more web pages transmitted to the client browser program is controlled by said recognized speech query.

26. A method of presenting information from a set of one or more webpages associated with a server interacting through a browser program with a client platform, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) partially processing a speech utterance at the client platform to generate limited data content speech data, said limited data content speech data being configured to reduce processing and transmission latencies; and
- (b) completing processing of said speech utterance using said limited speech data content to generate a recognized speech query at the server; and
- (c) presenting content for the set of one or more web pages to the browser program, under control of said recognized speech query.